Chairmanship of Shri Y.S.P. Thorat, Managing Director, NABARD, in January 2005. The group was set up to examine the nature and magnitude of the problem and evolve a strategy for increasing investment in Agriculture. The group has submitted its report in June 2005. The group has analysed the trends of inflow and the constrains in flow of investment credit and has drawn out a road map for accelerating the flow of investment credit to Agriculture. The various measures suggested by the group, *inter-alia*, include the following:-

Computerisation of land records and exploring the possibility by the State Governments for simplification of procedures for creation of charge on land/crops.

Active support of State Government for recovery of bank loans.

Reforms in Agriculture marketing.

Improving credit absorption capacity.

Designing appropriate products for financing rural infrastructure.

Strengthening the supplementary Banking Mechanism for increasing the banking outreach in rural areas.

Efficient water management.

Integrating short term credit with term credit.

Risk mitigation measures.

Location specific strategies for increasing the flow of credit.

Financing value chain.

Contribution made in National Relief Fund to Banks

2312. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Public Sector banks which receive contributions made by the public to the Prime Minister's National Relief Funds;

(b) whether Government would consider the desirability to authorize all the branches of the Public Sector Bank in the country to receive contributions to the Fund which would be in the interest of both the Fund and the citizens; and

(c) if so, by when the necessary orders in this regard are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has advised in December 2004 that all the branches of commercial banks may receive donations and nominate a nodal branch in New Delhi for the purpose of collection of contribution to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

Fresh study on black money

2313. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to undertake a fresh study by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy to assess quantum of black money in the country; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Government has not requested the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) to undertake a fresh study for assessing the quantum of black money in the country.

(b) Most of the transactions generating black money are unrecorded, making the credibility of any estimate doubtful. In such estimates, reliance is on indirect methods and circumstantial evidence. Even the authors of the Report of NIPFP (1985) has admitted that their estimate was based on numerous assumptions and approximations, each of which could be challenged. Therefore, no fresh study has been conducted.

Linking of pension reforms with financial reforms

2314. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are likely to pursue the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 2005 in its present form;

(b) whether Government propose to link pension reforms with financial reforms in order to reduce the pensionary liability of Government and shift it to the private market; and

(c) whether a document from the World Bank released during 1984 'Averting the old age crisis' has been referred to by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Official amendments to the Pension